

VP4302

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[ 1 ]

*On the Progress of Gardening. In a Letter from  
the Hon. Daines Barrington to the Rev. Mr. Norris  
Secretary.*

DEAR SIR,

AS the progress in architecture from the earliest and rudest times hath frequently been the subject of dissertation, perhaps it may not be uninteresting to trace the gradual improvements in both fruit and pleasure gardens [a].

THE first artificial garden, of which any particulars at least are stated, seems to be that of Solomon: "I planted me vineyards, I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kinds of fruit: I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees [b]."

As for the gardens of Babylon, they could only have been celebrated for the great expence which must have attended the piling so much earth as was necessary for planting trees in so singular a position [c]. As the Asiatics indeed seldom vary in their taste or manners, we have some chance of guessing how the eastern gardens were formerly laid out, from the descrip-

[a] "When ages grow to civility and elegance, men come to build stately sooner than to garden finely, as if gardening were the greater perfection." Bacon's Essays.

[b] Eccles. ii. 4.

[c] Athenæus speaks of a garden in a still more extraordinary situation, viz. that of a large ship, which belonged to Hiero king of Syracuse.

tion



tion of them in more modern times. Now Figueroa, who was ambassador from the court of Spain to that of Persia in 1617, informs us, that at Shiras the royal garden was so large that it appeared like a forest, the trees consisting of cypresses, planes, and elms, which were planted in squares and avenues, intermixed with thickets of roses. The fruits were grapes, pears, pistachia nuts, and almonds. Amidst these plantations was a large and beautiful lake.

HOMER, in the seventh book of his *Odyssæy*, after describing Alcinous's palace, as having gold and silver statues, proceeds to the royal garden, which is stated to be four acres [d] in extent, and that the fruits consisted of grapes, pears, olives, and figs, which were watered by two fountains.

LAERTES's garden in the twenty-fourth book of the *Odyssæy* hath the same fruits; but is fenced with hedges. It hath also two fountains.

As for that of Calypso in the fifth book, it seems to have been fixed upon by this semi-goddess for its pleasing situation, without having owed any thing to art, or labour, more than the beautiful spots in Juan Fernandez, or Tinian, when visited by lord Anson.

ALL these more early gardens seem therefore to have been made chiefly for supplying the common fruits of the climate; which being also a warm one, and requiring fountains, they always make part of the description. I do not find that they had either flowers, or any of the plants which we use in our kitchens.

I do not recollect any very particular account of a garden in the Greek writers, though it is well known that they had groves, or avenues planted with trees in the Athenian schools:

“Atque inter sylvas Academi quærere verum.” Horace.

[d] This is said to be large, μέγας ορχαῖος.

THE





THE same may be observed with regard to Roman gardens till the time of Martial, though general mention is made of those of Lucullus [e] and Augustus Cæsar [f]. It should seem that these were walks, with regular plantations of trees [g], as Virgil, in his Georgics, recommends the form of a quincunx.

“ Non animum modo uti pascat prospectus inanem.”

from which it is conceived, that such regular lines were supposed to contribute to beauty. In the private gardens there were commonly sweet smelling shrubs and flowers [g].

“ — tum violaria, et

“ Myrtus, et omnis copia narium,

“ Spargent olivetis odorem

“ Fertilibus domino priori.”

Horace.

TOWARDS the end of the first century, however, it appears clearly by the following epigram of Martial, that the prevailing taste was to have *clipt box* [b], amongst myrtles and planes.

[e] Plutarch indeed mentions that they had *αὐλῆς* or mounts in them, probably to command the adjacent country. Cicero, in his letters to Atticus, appears to be frequently anxious about his gardens, but he does not describe how they were laid out.

[f] It is believed that these gardens or perhaps public walks were begun by Julius Cæsar “prope Cæsaris hortos.”

Phædrus also mentions a garden of Tiberius Cæsar near Naples, but it is only described as *viridarium*.

[g] Often *pinus*,

*Fraxinus in sylvis pulcherrima, pinus in hortis.*

Virgil.

[b] At Pliny's Villa some of the box was cut into the letters of his own name, and that of his gardener. See L. v. Ep. 6. The cypress is still much planted by the Italians from its growing as if it had been clipt. It also appears in some of the Herculaneum vignettes.

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"Baiana nostri villa, Bassè, Faustini,  
 "Non otiosis ordinata myrtetis,  
 "Viduâque platano, *tonsilique buxeto*,  
 "Ingrata lati spatia detinet campi,  
 "Sed rure vero, barbaroque latatur." L. iii. Ep. 58.

By other epigrams of the same poet we find, that considerable improvements in forcing trees, both for fruit and flowers, had been successfully practised:

"Invida purpureos urat ne bruma racemos,  
 "Et gelidum Bacchi munera frigus edat,  
 "Condita perspicuâ vivit vindemia gemmâ,  
 "Et tegitur felix, nec tamen uva latet."

Grapes therefore seem to have been forced by putting glass before them, or perhaps by what we call a green-house. By the same means Tiberius had cucumbers during the whole year [i].

THE rose was the favourite shrub in Italy, as it hath ever been in other countries, which occasioned its early flowers to be in such request [k] as to send them from Egypt to Rome, the climate of the former being so much warmer than that of Italy.

THIS was probably managed by planting them in pots as soon as the buds began to appear; but, to save this expence, the Ro-

[i] Columella, l. xi. c. 3.

[k] I conceive that they were more frequently used for chaplets at their banquets, as I do not recollect either the Greek or Latin term for a nosegay.

— ποδὶς δὲ κράτα

Πικραρον. Anacreon.

And again,

Ροδινῶσι στεφανισκῶσι

Πικραστῶσι κερύσσω.



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man gardeners found out a method of forcing roses in Italy, so as to make it unnecessary to send to Egypt for them.

MARTIAL again alludes to this in the following epigram :

- “ Ut nova dona tibi, Cæsar, Nilotica tellus,  
“ Miserat hybernas ambitiosa rosas,  
“ Navita derisit Pharios Memphiticus hortos,  
“ Urbis ut intravit limina prima tuæ.  
“ At tu Romanæ jussus jam cedere brumæ  
“ Mitte tuas messes, accipe Nile rosas.” L. VIII. Ep. 68.

PERHAPS hot-houses, or hot walls, might have contributed to these more early productions; and it is remarkable, that at this same period the Romans first found out the luxury of ice in cooling their liquors:

- “ Non potare nivem, sed aquam potare rigentem  
“ De nive, *commenta est ingeniosa sitis.*” L. XIV. Ep. 117.

With us hot and ice-houses were introduced about the same time, and gentlemen's gardens have seldom the one without the other.

THOUGH the Romans thus forced roses, yet I do not recollect any proofs that they were curious about other flowers or shrubs; they often planted myrtles and rosemary however in the gardens of their villas [1]. Their fruit trees seem to have been chiefly grapes, pears, figs, and mulberries [m].

[1] See Pliny's Letters.

[m] Pliny's Letters, L. 11. Ep. 17. The practice of grafting was well known to both Greeks and Romans. It appears also by Columella that the latter had more than twenty sorts of pears, and by the poem *de Hortorum Cultura*, that in the time of Claudian many kinds of lettuce were cultivated, as likewise other kitchen herbs.

UPON the fall of the Roman empire little attention can be supposed to have been paid to gardening, and the earliest description of any such inclosure [n] I have happened to stumble upon, when science began to dawn, is that belonging to the Hotel de St. Paul at Paris, which was made by Charles the Fifth of France about the year 1364 [o]. In this garden were apples, pears, cherries, and vines. There were also peas and beans, beds of rosemary and lavender, with very large arbours.

THOUGH the scene in the famous *Romant de la Rose* (written in the fifteenth century) lies chiefly in a garden, yet I do not recollect that such circumstances are stated, as to enable us to discover in what manner they were then laid out [p].

AT the beginning however of the sixteenth century, we had *green-houses* in England, as one of Leland's poems is entitled,

"Horti Gulielmi Guntheri, *hyeme vernantes*."

IN his Itinerary also he notices the following gardens,

"At Morle in Derbyshire there is as much pleasure of orchards of great variety of frute, and fair made walks, and gardens, as in any place of Lancashire."

[n] Fitz Steven indeed states that the citizens of London in the time of Henry the Second had gardens to their villas; but mentions no particulars, except that they were large, beautiful, and planted with trees.

[o] Annual Register for 1764, which however does not cite the authority.

[p] I have re-examined the *Romant de la Rose*, and can only find that the garden had a path bordered with mint and fennel,

Par une bien petite fente

Bordee de fanoul et mente,

and that the flowers were violets and petiwinckle,

Violette y estoit moult belle

Et aussi parvanche nouvelle.

AGAIN



AGAIN at Wrexhill, on the Ouse in Yorkshire,

“AND in the orchards were mounts opere *topiario* [q], written about with degrees like turnings of cockleshells, to cum to the top without payne.”

“THE castle of Thornbury [r] had an orchard of four acres with sundry fruit trees.”

THESE three instances seem to shew, what were the gardens commonly which belonged to considerable houses in the time of Henry the Eighth, but in the fifth volume of the *Archaeologia* we have several other particulars relative to that king's garden, at his favourite and magnificent palace of Non-such [s].

THESE circumstances appear in a survey taken in the year 1650, when it probably continued in exactly the same state as it was at the death of Henry the Eighth [t].

It is herein stated to have been cut out and divided into several allies, quarters and rounds, set about with thorn hedges. On the north side was a kitchen garden very commodious, and surrounded with a brick wall of fourteen feet high. On the west was a wilderness severed from the little park by the hedge, the whole containing ten acres. In the privy garden were pyramids, fountains,

[q] Or cutting trees into particular forms.

[r] In Gloucestershire, *Lel. Coll.* vol. II. p. 661.

[s] Henry the Eighth had during his reign either built or greatly improved so many of his palaces, that I find the following passage in Leland.

“Remember to conclude with promise to write a booke in Latine of the king's edifices, as Procopius did of Justinian's the emperor.” *Itin.* vol. VII. p. 108. He also introduced the Kentish cherries. See Fuller's *Worthies*. Philemon Holland (in his additions to Camden) says that Richard Harris *Fruitever* was employed for this purpose. These cherries were planted in many parishes near Tenham. *Ibid.*

[t] It is believed that this palace was not resided in by any of Henry's successors, at least for any time.

and

and basons of marble, one of which is set round with six *lelack* trees, which trees bear no fruite, but only a very pleasaunte flower.

IN the privy garden were also one hundred and forty fruit trees, two yews, one juniper, and six *lelacks*. In the kitchen garden were seventy-two fruit trees and one *time* tree [*u*]. Lastly, before this palace was a *neate* and *baundsome* bowling-green, furrounded with a balustrade of free stone.

IN this garden therefore at Nonsuch we find many such ornaments [*w*] of old English gardening, as prevailed till the modern taste was introduced by Kent.

DURING the reign of queen Elizabeth there was an Italian who visited England, and published in 1586 a thick volume of Latin poems divided into several books. This poet styles himself *Melissus*.

IN this collection there is a poem *on the royal garden*, one stanza of which describes a labyrinth, and it should seem from the following lines that her majesty was curious in flowers, and perhaps a botanist.

Cultor herbarum, memor atque florum,  
Atque radicum sub humo latentum, et  
Stirpium *prisca*, et *nova* singularum  
Nomina signet.

And again,

Non opis nostræ frutices ad unguem  
Persequi cunctos, variasque plantas.

[*u*] Possibly rather a lime tree.

[*w*] Leland, who wrote when Henry the Eighth reigned, seems to have had a taste superior to such ornaments of a garden.

"There is (near Warwick) *Silence*, a *pratye* woode, antra in vivo saxo, "fontes liquidi et gemmei, prata florida, antra muscosa, &c." *Lel. Itin.* v. IV. p. 50. This passage is noticed by the late ingenious and learned Mr. Harris.

DURING



DURING the reign of this queen, Hentzner informs us that there was in the privy garden a jet-d'eau, which by turning of a cock wetted all the spectators who were standing near it.

LIBERNAU, who wrote his *Maison Rustique* about the same time, advises arbours of jessamine or roses, box, juniper, and cypress, to be introduced into gardens, and gives some wooden plates of forms for parterres, and labyrinths. The same taste prevailed in Spain and Italy [x].

JAMES the First built, or at least improved, the palace of Theobalds, to which he likewise added a garden [y], thus described by *Mandelslo*, a traveller who visited England in 1640.

"It is large and square, having all its walls covered with fillery, and a beautiful jet d'eau in the centre. The parterre hath many pleasant walks, many of which are planted on the sides with espaliers, and others arched over. Some of the trees are limes and elms, and at the end is a small mount called *the Mount of Venus*, which is placed in the midst of a labyrinth, and is upon the whole one of the most beautiful spots in the world [z]."

THIS same traveller describes also the garden at Greenwich (much improved by James the First), in which he mentions a statue pouring water from a cornu copiae, and a *grotto*.

ABOUT the same time *Mandelslo* visited Brussels, and informs us that in the midst of a lake adjoining to the palace, there is a square house built upon pillars which perhaps was one of the first summer houses in such a situation.

[x] *Monconys*, t. III. p. 34 and 17.

[y] Lord Burleigh first made these gardens which were very extensive being two miles in circuit. *Peck's Des. Cur.* vol. II.

[z] *Voyages de Mandelslo*, t. II. p. 598. Ben Jonson mentions figs, grapes, quinces, apricots, and peaches at *Penthurst* in Kent, and that during the same reign, Vincent Corbet had a famous nursery at *Twickenham*.

CHARLES the First is well known to have been in the earlier part of his reign an encourager of the elegant arts; but I have not happened to meet with any proofs of attention to the gardens of his palaces, if the appointing Parkinson to be his *herbarist* be excepted, which office it is believed was first created by this king.

IMPROVEMENTS of the same kind were little to be expected from the Commonwealth, or Cromwell; but Charles the Second being fond both of playing at mall, and walking in St. James's Park, planted some rows of limes, and dug the canal, both which still remain. He also covered the central walk with cockle shells, and instituted the office of cockle strewer. It was so well kept during this reign that Waller calls it "the *polished* Mall." He also mentions that Charles the Second (probably from this circumstance) was able to strike the ball more than half the length of the walk.

LORD Capel seems to have been the first person of consequence in England [a], who was at much expence in his gardens, and having brought over with him many new fruits from France [b], he planted them at Kew.

LORD Essex had the same taste, and sent his gardener Rose to study the then much celebrated beauties of Versailles. Upon Rose's return Charles the Second appointed him royal gardener [c], when he planted such famous *dwarfs* at Hamp-

[a] Lord W. Ruffel laid out the garden in Bloomsbury Square about the same time, and probably then planted the acacias which now grow before the offices. They are become of such a size as to be perhaps deemed timber.

[b] Switzer, vol. I. *Ichthyographia Rustica*, 3 vols. 8vo.

[c] He had before indeed sent for Le Nantre and Perault, but it is believed that the latter declined coming into England. Le Nantre however planted the parks of St. James and Greenwich.



ron Court, Carlton, and Marlborough Gardens [d], that London (who was Rose's apprentice) challenges all Europe to produce the like.

I SHOULD rather conceive that this king had the first hot and ice-house (which generally accompany each other) ever built in England, as at the installation dinner given at Windsor on the twenty-third of April 1667 there were cherries, strawberries, and ice creams.

EVELYN published his *Calendarium Hortense* in 1679, from which it appears that most of the flowers, shrubs, and fruits which we plant at present were then known [e], if we except what have been lately introduced from America [f]. The same writer gives particular directions about parterres and aviaries, which latter ornament was not therefore uncommon at this period, the example being probably taken from that in the Bird Cage Walk, where (it should seem from the name [g]) Charles the Second had placed this garden ornament. He had also a large collection of water fowl, which he generally fed himself.

[d] "All with a border of rich fruit trees crown'd."  
Waller speaking of the mall.

[e] See Ashmole's History of the Order of the Garter. Monconys mentions, that in 1663 Spring Gardens (or Vauxhall) was much resorted to, having grafts and sand walks, dividing squares of twenty or thirty yards, which were inclosed with hedges of gooseberries, whilst within there were raspberries, roses, beans and asparagus. T. ii. pag. 17.

[f] Compton bishop of London introduced in the episcopal garden at Fulham many foreign trees which still continue to grow there.

[g] I have been informed that in the old books belonging to the master of the horse, there is an allowance to the *avener*, for hemp seed, with which these birds were fed. As for the more common etymology of the name of this walk from *berceau* or a cradle, there is not the least appearance of the limes having been arched over when first planted.

I SHOULD not conclude what relates to gardening during this reign without mentioning that probably many of what were then called improvements, might have been imitated from those of Lewis the Fourteenth, as according to Rapin this king not only delighted in gardens, but often directed the workmen in person.

— per te curando incumbere fundo  
 Non dubitas, circum famuli stant ordine longo,  
 Centum qui pomis, centum qui floribus hortos  
 Conferere ingentes, et aquas deducere certant :  
 Artificumque vices varias, operumque laborem  
 Per medios instans operi partiris, ut agrum  
 Omnia sint paribus numeris, dimensa per omnem [b].

ONE of the master gardeners therefore having been reproved by his majesty for not having made the beds of a parterre exactly answer each other, did not instantly allow himself to have committed a mistake, but having measured the ground with supposed great care, justified himself by saying, that the king's eye was truer than his line.

I CONCLUDE that the short reign of James the Second produced no great alteration in the royal gardens; but his successor introduced or gave a vogue to clipt yews, with magnificent gates, and rails of iron [i].

THOSE at Hampton Court which are parallel to the Thames extend six hundred yards in length, and are broken at regular intervals of fifty yards with twelve gates four yards wide and seven feet high. The design of these rails is elegant, and most

[b] De Hortis 1672.

[i] The most magnificent and extensive iron-work next to that at Hampton Court is perhaps the gates and rails at Leefwood near Mold in Flintshire. The gardens there are laid out by Switzer (author of the *Ichnographia Rustica*) in Bridgeman's first style.



capitally executed. The harp, thistle, garter, &c. are introduced as ornaments.

THE four urns placed in that part of the garden which lies before the principal front of the palace are perhaps the first ornaments of that kind which are to be found in England, though I believe they are not uncommon in Italian gardens of more early periods.

IN another part of the garden there is a most elegant alcove consisting entirely of, and arched over with, trellis. Though the carpenter however cannot be too much commended for the execution of his work, yet there is certainly a great absurdity in such a building, as it neither excludes wind, sun, or rain. Most of these garden ornaments indeed may more probably be attributed to queen Mary rather than the king, who spent many of his summers out of England. She resided much at Hampton Court, and is said to have appointed Pluckenet to be her herbarist, with a salary of two hundred pounds per annum. During this reign botanists were sent to explore the Indies for plants [k].

THE fruit garden at Hampton Court is not now often exceeded in size, as it consists of no less than eight acres, adjoining to which there is a wilderness of ten, and in which there is a labyrinth possibly as old as the time of Henry the Eighth.

[k] Preface to Ray's Synopsis 1696. This great botanist mentions a tulip tree growing at Chelsea in 1684, and a hot-house belonging to a Mr. Watts which had a tea shrub. Ray meditated a work to be entitled, "*Horti Angliæ*." See his letters. It may not be improper here to refer to Ayscough's Catalogue of the Sloane MSS. Article 4436 contains "Observations on the *Humble* and *Sensitive* plants," which were so early as 1661 in Mr. Chiffin's garden St. James's Park. The same accurate catalogue contains a list of the foreign plants cultivated at Hampton Court in 1692.

As this is perhaps the only such garden device now remaining, after the devastations of Messrs. Kent and Brown, I shall mention some particulars relative to it.

THE winding walks amount to half a mile, though the whole extent is not perhaps more than a quarter of an acre, and there is a stand adjacent in which the gardener places himself in order to extricate you by his direction, after the stranger acknowledges himself to be completely tired and puzzled [1].

BEFORE I made this arduous attempt, I resolved to fix upon a certain rule as my best chance to avoid being confounded, and I succeeded by always keeping as near as I could to the outermost hedge.

I MUST not however take too much credit to myself from my discernment, because Switzer, whom I shall have occasion afterwards to cite, condemns this labyrinth for having but four stops, whereas he had given a plan for one with twenty.

I DO not recollect that queen Anne is supposed to have made any considerable alterations in the royal gardens, if the parterre before the great terrace at Windsor is excepted, the beds of which are now covered with turf, though traces of the figure still remain.

SWITZER indeed [m] mentions that she finished the old gardens at Kensington begun by king William, under the direction of Wise, who became the royal gardener on the death of Rose [n], to whom he had been an apprentice. His alteration

[1] "Mazes well framed a man's height may perhaps make your friend wander in gathering berries till he cannot recover himself without your help." Lawson's New Orchard 4to. 1626.

[m] Ichnographia Rustica, 3 vols. 8vo.

[n] In the time of Charles the Second there were two other famous gardeners, viz. Lucre and Field, gardeners to the earl of Bedford. Cock was also then gardener to lord Effex. Switzer.



of the gravel pit [o] in the old part of the gardens is compared by the *Spectator* to the sublime of epic poetry; but such revolutions happen with regard to taste, that every holly and yew hedge are now removed from this celebrated spot.

WISE had a partner whose name was *London*, and who being nearly in as great request as the modern Brown, constantly made regular circuits during the summer to execute the commands of those who might wish to employ him.

THESE two partners planted perhaps the first considerable nursery of this country, which was at Brompton, and by which they are said to have made a profit of two thousand pounds [p].

It is believed that George the First rather improved the gardens at Herenhausen than those of any of his English palaces.

In the succeeding reign queen Caroline threw a string of ponds in Hyde Park into one, so as to form what is called the Serpentine River, from its being not exactly strait as all ponds and canals were before. The late lord Bathurst indeed told me, that he was the first person who ventured to deviate from strait lines, in a brook which he had widened at Ryskins near Colebrook. The lord Strafford of that time however [q], paying him a visit, and being carried out to see the effect of this new improvement asked him to own fairly, how little more it would have cost, to have made the course of the brook in a strait direction.

QUEEN Caroline likewise is well known to have planted and laid out the gardens both of Richmond and Kensington, upon a larger scale, and in better taste, than we have any instances before that period. She seems also to have been the first intro-

[o] The gravel of England, and particularly of the county of Middlesex is most deservedly admired, and yet perhaps this is the first pit of any extent which had been dug for walks. Charles the Second covered the mall with cockles.

[p] Switzer. London died in 1713. Ibid. His successors have been Bridgeman, Kent, and Brown.

[q] Plenipotentiary at the peace of Utrecht.

ducer of expensive buildings in gardens, if one at lord Barrington's [r] is excepted.

THIS not only by tradition, but internal proofs is most undoubtedly a plan of Inigo Jones, and in my memory was always called the Banquetting House, for which purpose it was originally destined, having cellars under it.

THIS great architect seems to have indulged his fancy upon this occasion, and to have imitated the Chinese style, with great propriety, as the situation much resembles those we see in Chinese drawings, where summer houses are represented.

IT is a coved cube of eighteen feet, built and paved with most excellent freestone, hath four doors and eight windows which are fixed in stone transoms, the panes being plate glass, and the wood between those panes being gilded [s].

THE building commands the water on three sides, having a paved walk round it exactly of the same breadth, with the projecting roof which overhangs it, the intention being perhaps that the angler should fish there, whilst it rains, and when it is supposed he is most likely to have good sport.

THIS Banquetting House is now in exactly the same plight as it was a hundred and fifty years ago if the gilding [t] of the window frames is excepted, and the removal of a parapet wall, which went round three parts of the walk that is under cover, probably to prevent the angler from falling into the water.

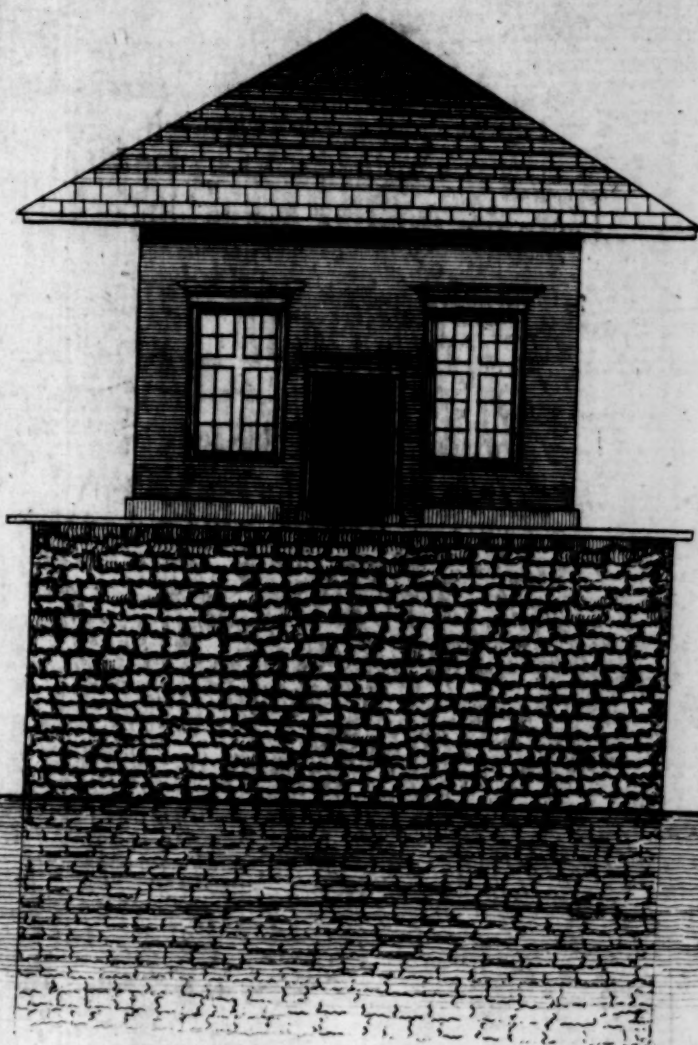
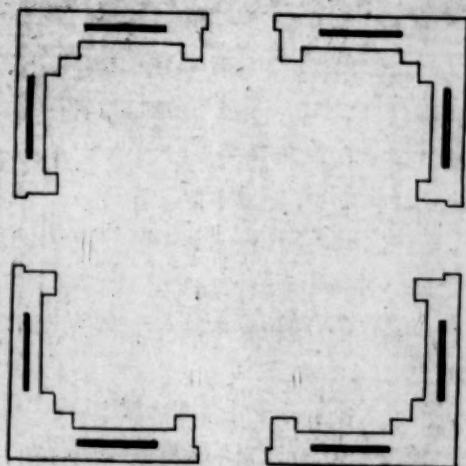
[r] At Beckett near Farringdon in Berkshire. I think there is a garden building also at Wilton, which is supposed to have been planned by Jones. I send herewith a plan and elevation of the former. See pl. VIII.

[s] The old gardens near this building were also famous in their time having been executed at considerable expence.

[t] Gilding (at least in gold) lasts longer than is generally supposed, witness that at the prebendal house of the late Rev. Dr. Blair at Westminster, which, though finished under the direction of Inigo Jones, is still very bright.



10 20 30 40 50 feet







I HAVE been the more particular in the description of this Banqueting House, as I conceive it to be perhaps the most ancient garden building which we have in the kingdom.

WE are now arrived at a more particular æra for taste in gardening, which we chiefly owe to Kent, who most properly banished the more ancient ornaments, nor though I have the honour of being a member of this learned society, can I repine at the reformation.

WE have indeed allusions to gardens in the present style so early as the time of Tasso, but they existed only in the poet's imagination, and were never executed.

In lieto aspetto il bel giardin s'aperse,  
Acque stagnante, mobili cristalli,  
Fior vari, e varie piante, erbe diverse:  
Apriche collinette, ombrose valli,  
Selve, e spelonche in una vista offerse;  
*E quel che'l bello e'l caro accrese all' opre,*  
*L'arte che tutto fa, nulla si scuopre.*  
Stimi (si misto il culto e col negletto)  
Sol naturali e gli ornamenti e i fiti;  
Di natura arte par che per diletto,  
L'imitatrice sua scherzando imiti [u].

This description of the garden of the enchantress Alcina is fortunately translated by Spenser in his legion of Temperance, when Sir Guyon approaches the garden of *Acrasy* or *Intemperance*, though our poet hath transposed several of Tasso's lines,

“ *And that which all faire works doth most aggrace,*

“ *The art which all that wrought, appeared in no place* [x].

“ One would have thought so cunningly the rude,

“ And scorned parts were mingled with the fine,

[u] Gier. Lib. Canto xvi.

[x] Nature's own work it seemed.

Nature taught art.

Milton's Paradise Regained.

*Mr. BARRINGTON on the Progress of Gardening.*

- " That nature had for wantonness ensu'd  
 " Art, and that art at nature did repine.  
 " So thriving each the other to undermine,  
 " Each did the other's worke more beautify,  
 " So differing both in willes, agreed in fine,  
 " So all agreed through sweete diversity,  
 " This garden to adorne with all variety."

Spenser's Fairy Queen.

It was reserved for Kent to realize these beautiful descriptions, for which he was peculiarly adapted by being a painter [y]; as the true test of perfection in a modern garden is, that a landscape painter would choose it for a composition.

KENT hath been succeeded by Brown, who hath undoubtedly great merit in laying out pleasure grounds, but I conceive that in some of his plans I see rather traces of the gardener of Old Stowe, than of Pouffin or Claude Lorraine [z]. I could wish therefore that Gainsborough gave the design, and that Brown executed.

I am, &c.

DAINES BARRINGTON.

P. S. For several anecdotes and observations with regard to the progress of gardening, I must refer to an appendix of that learned and ingenious antiquary the Hon. Mr. Walpole, which I have lately perused.

[y] Kent indeed on his return from Italy painted history and portrait, but like Gainsborough he might also have studied landscapes.

[z] Whate'er Lorraine light-touch'd with softening hue.

Or savage Rosa dash'd, or learned Pouffin drew.

Thomson's Castle of Indolence.





